

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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R 011033Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8140
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1275

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UR US RO PINT SHUM ETRD ENGR
SUBJECT: SOVIET DIPLOMATS ON SOVIET-ROMANIAN RELATIONS,
BESSARABIA, KIRALY LETTER, CEAUSESCU CULT AND RCP
EXPANSION

1. SUMMARY. AT BILATERAL LUNCHEON (SIX TO SIDE) WITH
SOVIETS FEBRUARY 27,
--AMBASSADOR DROZDENKO SAID HE EXPECTED CEAUSESCU TO VISIT
USSR THIS YEAR, AFFIRMED SOVIETS CANNOT SELL ROMANIANS CRUDE
OIL BUT WOULD DELIVER LNG BEGINNING IN 1980, AND WONDERED
WHETHER ROMANIANS HAD NOT MADE SIGNIFICANT OFFSHORE OIL
STRIKE IN BLACK SEA; MILATT SAID USTINOV WILL VISIT ROMANIA,
PROBABLY IN SEPTEMBER;
--ON BESSARABIA, POLINT COUNSELOR SAID HE HAD FOUND MOLDAVIAN
ACADEMICIAN LAZAREV'S MOST RECENT BOOK (SIX MONTHS AGO) POLE-
MICAL AND THAT MOSCOW HAD TRIED TO TONE IT DOWN, ONLY HALF
SUCCESSFULLY, BUT THOUGHT IT PERHAPS TIME FOR POLEMICS TO
HEAT UP AGAIN;
--ON KIRALY LETTER, DROZDENKO SAID HE THOUGHT ISSUE EXAGGERATED
AND WOULD NOT REALLY CAUSE PROBLEMS BETWEEN TWO CENTRAL
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES; HOWEVER, ANOTHER POL COUNSELOR'S SOURCES
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HERE HAD TOLD HIM ANDREI HAD DISCUSSED MINORITY PROBLEM DURING
VISIT TO BUDAPEST, BUT WOULD NOT TELL HIM WHAT WAS SAID;
--POLINT COUNSELOR SAID SOVIETS FOUND CEAUSESCU 60TH BIRTHDAY
PERSONALITY CULT HARD TO UNDERSTAND, SINCE THEY HAD PUT CULT
BEHIND THEM, AND REPORTED LATE 1977 POLEXCO DECISION TO EXPAND
RCP MEMBERSHIP SUBSTANTIALLY, EVIDENTLY TO CREATE "ITALIAN-
TYPE" PARTY. END SUMMARY.

2. AS GRIST FOR ANALYTICAL MILL, FOLLOWING TIDBITS FROM U.S.-SOVIET BILATERAL LUNCHEON HOSTED BY SOVIETS FEBRUARY 27 (SIX TO SIDE) MAY BE OF INTEREST. SOVIETS THEMSELVES SEEMED INTERESTED IN BIO DATA, DATES FOR CEAUSESCU VISIT TO U.S., AND NAILING DOWN "TRADITION" OF BILATERAL LUNCHEONS IN BUCHAREST.

3. ON SOVIET-ROMANIAN RELATIONS, AMBASSADOR DROZDENKO CHARACTERIZED THEM AS GENERALLY GOOD, BUT SAID THERE WERE SEVERAL PROBLEMS ON TACTICS, WHICH HOWEVER SHOULD NOT DISTURB ESSENTIALS OF RELATIONSHIP. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF CEAUSESCU AND BREZHNEV VISITS TO RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, HE SAID BREZHNEV HAD BEEN TO ROMANIA IN 1976, AND 1978 WOULD BE TOO EARLY FOR ANOTHER SUCH TRIP, BUT CEAUSESCU WOULD PROBABLY VISIT USSR (HE MENTIONED CAUCASUS AND UKRAINE AS POSSIBLE SITES) THIS YEAR, IN FRAMEWORK OF ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS. SOVIET MILATT KUCHUMOV TOLD DEFATT THAT DEFMIN USTINOV WILL VISIT ROMANIA THIS YEAR, PROBABLY IN SEPTEMBER.

4. ON ECONOMIC SIDE, DROZDENKO SAID USSR COULD NOT SELL CRUDE OIL TO ROMANIA BECAUSE OF ITS COMMITMENTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES AND FACT THAT ROMANIA PRODUCES OIL ITSELF. HOWEVER, DELIVERY OF LNG TO ROMANIA SHOULD BEGIN IN 1980. DROZDENKO WONDERED WHETHER ROMANIA HAD MADE SIGNIFICANT OIL STRIKE IN BLACK SEA OFFSHORE DRILLINGS (AMBASSADOR SAID HE DID NOT KNOW), ADDING THAT SOVIETS ARE ALSO DRILLING IN BLACK SEA WITH NO SUCCESS
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TO DATE. HE PUT 1977 BILATERAL TRADE AT \$2.5 BILLION, AMBASSADOR HAVING ADVANCED \$2.8 BILLION FIGURE.

5. ON BESSARABIA, COUNSELOR (FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS) POZDNYAKOV SAID POLEMICS HAVE ABATED SINCE KATUSHEV 1976 VISIT, BUT "PERHAPS NOW IT IS TIME FOR THEM TO HEAT UP AGAIN." HE HAD READ STILL-UNPUBLISHED FIFTH VOLUME OF ROMANIAN HISTORY OF ROMANIA SOME YEARS AGO IN DRAFT, AND HAS NOW READ LATEST WORK ON MOLDAVIAN HISTORY BY MOLDAVIAN ACADEMICIAN LAZAREV, NOW ABOUT SIX MONTHS OLD. ASKED WHETHER IT IS SERIOUS, POZDNYAKOV SAID IT WAS VERY POLEMICAL, EVEN NAMING OPPONENTS, AND MOSCOW HAD TRIED TO TONE IT DOWN, BUT ONLY HALF SUCCESSFULLY.

6. ON KIRALY LETTER AND TRANSYLVANIA, DROZDENKO SAID ISSUE OF WHETHER ROMANIANS MISTREATING MAGYAR MINORITY IS EXAGGERATED, AND WOULD NOT REALLY CAUSE ANY PROBLEMS BETWEEN TWO CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. IN HIS ESTIMATE, ROMANIA ENJOYS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL HER NEIGHBORS AND GOOD RELATIONS GENERALLY WITHIN SOCIALIST WORLD. (ASKED FOR HIS ESTIMATE OF SOVIET/EE RELATIONS, HE SAID THEY WERE GOOD EXCEPT FOR ALBANIA: ALBANIAN AMBASSADOR HERE REFUSES TO SPEAK TO HIM BEYOND PERFUNCTORY

GREETINGS.) IN SEPCON, POZDNYAKOV TOLD ONE AMERICAN HE THOUGHT MAGYAR MINORITY PROBLEM SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS HUNGARIAN-ROMANIAN ISSUE BUT ONE BETWEEN GOR AND ROMANIAN MAGYAR MINORITY. ARTICLES APPEARING IN TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS POLEMIC, SINCE WHILE ROMANIAN ARTICLES MUST REPRESENT OFFICIAL POINT OF VIEW, SAME IS NOT ALWAYS TRUE IN HUNGARY. THERE HAD BEEN TWO KIRALY LETTERS, ONE IN MAY AND ONE IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER, AND AS RESULT CC SECRETARY ILIE VERDET HAD MET WITH KIRALY. HE HIMSELF WAS INFORMED OF KIRALY'S WHEREABOUTS ONLY BY RFE. IN ANOTHER CONVERSATION, POZDNYAKOV NOTED THAT UNPUBLISHED PORTION OF SOVIET RPT SOVIET HISTORY OF ROMANIA CONCERNS ORIGINS, I.E. TRANSYLVANIA, BECAUSE OF HUNGARIAN-ROMANIAN DISPUTE. HIS COLLEAGUE REMOV AFFIRMED THAT DISPUTE IS VERY SERIOUS, AND THAT HE HAS BEEN TOLD ANDREI DISCUSSED IT DURING CONFIDENTIAL

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FEBRUARY 16-19 VISIT TO BUDAPEST, ALTHOUGH HIS SOURCES WOULD NOT REPORT WHAT WAS ACTUALLY SAID.

7. ON ROMANIAN INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS, POZDNYAKOV COMMENTED RE CEAUSESCU 60TH BIRTHDAY, CELEBRATION LAST MONTH THAT NOT EVEN STALIN HAD GONE TO SUCH EXTREMES IN CALLING ATTENTION TO HIMSELF AND CULTIVATING PERSONALITY CULT, AND THAT SOVIETS FIND IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND CEAUSESCU CULT, SINCE THEY HAVE PUT PERSONALITY CULT BEHIND THEM. HE ALSO SAID HE UNDERSTOOD POLITICAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECIDED AT END OF 1977 TO EMBARK ON SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF RCP MEMBERSHIP. ROMANIANS APPEAR TO DESIRE "ITALIAN-TYPE" PARTY, POZDNYAKOV SAID, AND THIS IS SURPRISING, SINCE CONDITIONS ARE SO DIFFERENT IN TWO COUNTRIES.

8. IN TALK WITH AMBASSADOR, DROZKENKO WAS ANXIOUS TO FIX DATE FOR NEXT BILATERAL AFFAIR, AND IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED FOR SOMETIME IN LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY.
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